

Submission to the External Panel Review on Hydraulic Fracturing

To: Panel Review on Hydraulic Fracturing Att. Dr. Gosine
Fr: D. Rumbolt
Re: Harmful Effects of Hydraulic Fracturing on Health and Environment
Date: May 1, 2015

The west coast is one of the most beautiful natural environments in our country and it would be irresponsible for the NL Department of Natural Resources to issue permits to allow junior oil companies to experiment with hydraulic fracturing along our pristine coastlines. It is our natural environment that attracts tourists to our province. They come here for our scenic coastlines, the whales and the icebergs and to visit small villages where people are friendly and where they can walk down to the wharf and buy a fresh cod, or a dozen lobsters. Opening the west coast up to hydraulic fracturing, a method of oil extraction that is now being rejected by provinces, states and countries all over the world, would be a grave mistake that present and future generations of Newfoundlanders would adamantly regret.

You have to ask the question: "Why has Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Quebec imposed moratoria on fracking?" Despite being under considerable pressure from the oil and gas industry, Governor Cuomo of New York listened to his chief medical officer and imposed a ban on fracking because of health concerns associated with the controversial method of oil extraction. In the UK, Scotland and Wales announced moratori in early 2015, claiming that health and safety were a priority. France has imposed an all out ban on hydraulic fracturing. The list of bans on hydraulic fracturing worldwide is indeed compelling <http://keptapwatersafe.org/global-bans-on-fracking/> .

I ask Panel members: "Why is NL even proceeding with an External Panel Review on hydraulic fracturing?" Considering the numerous studies that have been published calling for a strong precautionary approach, and the long list of bans and moratoria that have been imposed in the last six months, it would be prudent for the NL Government to impose a ban on hydraulic fracturing until it has been scientifically proven safe and dispense with a Panel Review.

If Minister Dalley is looking for guidance, I suggest that he refer to the recommendations of the Concerned Health Professionals of New York who have published the Compendium of Scientific, Medical and Media Findings Demonstrating the Risks and Harms of Fracking (Unconventional Gas and Oil Extraction).

Link: (<http://concernedhealthny.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/CHPNY-Fracking-Compendium.pdf>)

Dr. Gosine, I kindly ask you and your Panel members, to carefully consider my recommendation before advising Minister Derrick Dalley of whether or not to proceed with hydraulic fracturing in our province.

Yours in healthy living,

D. Rumbolt

Making A Submission to the External Panel Review on Hydraulic Fracturing

In order to have an effective ENVIRONMENTAL VOICE it is imperative that citizens participate in the submission process. The submission process is very simple (below).

1. Proceed to the Website Link : Make a Submission <http://nlhfrp.ca/submit-feedback-to-the-panel/>
2. Scroll to the bottom of page > “Proceed to Make a Submission” > Complete personal information > You may choose to present to the panel in Corner Brook, in Stephenville, or have a face-to-face meeting. (If you present, at the public consultation your submission must be in by **June 1**.)
3. It has been requested that more consultations be scheduled. The Wheeler Panel on HD Fratturing in Nova Scotia held 11 public consultation sessions. If you want to have more consultations sessions, contact Dr. Ray Gosine at: contact@nlhfrp.ca and submit a request. Written submissions can also be mailed to the address provided
4. Your submission can be a personal letter, an academic paper, artwork, etc.
5. It is important to submit reference material: peer reviewed reports, media articles, studies, maps, etc

Draft of a Simplified Submission Letter

To: Dr. Ray Gosine, Chair, NL Hydraulic Fracturing Review Panel

Fr: John Digout, Black Duck Brook NL A0N 3B0 (gdigout3@gmail.com 709-000-8888)

Re: Submission to Hydraulic Fracturing Review Panel

Date: May ..., 2015

Dear Dr. Gosine:

The west coast of Newfoundland is my home and oil companies have no right to come into my home and inflict harm on my environment, my health and my community. Since Shoal Point Energy started issuing press releases about their intention to use hydraulic fracking in our bay, my community has felt threatened by the oil industry. When Black Spruce Exploration took over the drilling rights from Shoal Point Energy, I was even more concerned. David Murray, the CEO of Black Spruce Exploration, was regularly in the media stating that his company had two oil rigs all ready to go, waiting to be dispatched from Texas, and the rigs were expected to arrive in western NL in the spring of 2014. Mr. Murray consistently said they would have to frack in order to extract the oil from the Green Point Shale. This was very disturbing to our entire community. Shoal Point is a narrow strip of land projecting out into

Port au Port Bay and it is one of the proposed drilling sites. The exploratory well site is just 5 kilometres across the bay from my home. When they last drilled there in 2010, I could look out and see the flare stack burning off gas. Seeing that flare stack so close to my home was extremely stressful.

I have lived in Black Duck Brook, on the shores of Port au Port Bay all my life. My ancestors have fished and farmed here for over 150 years and each generation has been good stewards of the land and the sea. I want to preserve the land and the sea in the same way as my ancestors did.

I sincerely ask you to please consider my legitimate concerns and to recommend to Minister Derrick Dalley that the province ban hydraulic fracturing until it is scientifically proven safe.

In closing, I ask you to review the recent comprehensive study completed by the Health Professionals of New York. The findings of the Health Professionals of New York is certainly compelling.

Sincerely ,
John Digout

Link: Health Professionals of New York <http://concernedhealthny.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/CHPNY-Fracking-Compendium.pdf>